

**Missouri
Department
of Transportation**



Pete K. Rahn, Director

224924

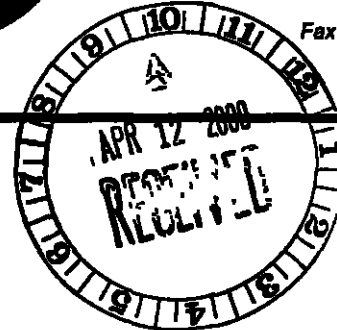
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Ms Anne K. Quinlan
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

RE Comments by Missouri DOT in Response to STB Notice No. AB-33 (Sub No 261),
Union Pacific Railroad Company Abandonment in New Madrid, Scott and Stoddard Counties,
Missouri

Dear Ms Quinlan:

The state of Missouri through the Missouri Department of Transportation, as the regulatory authority over railroads in the state of Missouri, submits the following comments in relation to the Board's notice of the above abandonment.

The Missouri Department of Transportation supports the provision of rail service to communities that support it and have the business climate and business organizations present, which could benefit from rail service. However, we also support the abandonment of rail lines which historically have had little rail traffic on them or which have outdated equipment that will not likely be upgraded in the near future. The Union Pacific line, which runs through Sikeston, MO, has both of these issues present. We believe there is a way to accomplish both of these goals.

The notice of abandonment contains a listing of 4 businesses presently in Sikeston, MO, which currently use rail service. The length of line, however, that would be required to still serve these businesses would be extremely short in comparison to the entire 20-mile length of rail line sought to be abandoned between mileposts 196.7 and 216.27


The present Union Pacific Sikeston branch line crosses a north-south BNSF line referred to as the River subdivision in the middle of Sikeston at approximately mile post 212. The only two businesses, which are currently set to receive rail service, are located at mileposts 213.74 and at the end of the line at 216.27. It would be our suggestion that if it is possible for a switch or turnout to be constructed to allow access off of the BNSF River Subdivision onto the Union Pacific line (depending of course on availability of funds) that such access be allowed for

approximately 3 miles in each direction from milepost 212, which would then extend to mileposts 209 and 215. This remainder of the line would be of a length of about 6 miles and could conceivably serve future requests for businesses in Sikeston that run along the busy US Bus. 60 corridor. All the rest of the line remaining on the edges of Sikeston and its environs would then be abandoned from mileposts 209 to 196.7 and then from mileposts 215 to 216.27.

If the line is abandoned, we would also request the STB enter an order transferring the current lights and gates signals at US 60 at USDOT No. 446175M to another crossing on the UP system in Southeast Missouri at the mutual agreement of UP and MoDOT on terms to be agreed upon at a later date. We would also request that the gated crossing at Rte Z in Morehouse (446183E) be retained for salvage value by UP so that it may be possibly used in whole or in part at another location in Missouri on another railroad.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment through written testimony. We appreciate your consideration and the improvement of rail services generally because of the regulatory oversight your board enforces.

Sincerely,



Rodney P. Massman
Administrator of Railroads,
Missouri Department of Transportation

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Union Pacific Railroad